



AIRC NEWS

Newsletter from the American Information Resource Center (AIRC), Chennai
April - June, 2006

From the Publisher:

Greetings.

April 22, Earth Day and June 5 World Environment Day are celebrated all over the world to create awareness about the importance of environment. The United States has made remarkable progress over the past three decades in reducing pollution and protecting the environment within its borders. It has also taken a leadership role as a global environmental steward in developing a better understanding of environmental options and in shaping a sustainable approach to development.

We have dedicated this issue of our newsletter to environment and we have included an article titled "The Environment: Shared Goals and a Common Mission" by Dr. Paula J. Dobriansky. In addition, we have provided information on books, articles and some important websites on environment for the benefit of our patrons. This issue also contains information on some events organized by the AIRC over the past three months.

I hope you will find the contents useful and I urge you to make use of the extensive resources of the AIRC in pursuit of knowledge.

I appreciate your patronage and look forward to seeing you sometime at the AIRC.

Ravi Candadai
Consul for Public Affairs

The Environment: Shared Goals and a Common Mission

by Paula J. Dobriansky

The United States, a leader in protecting the environment, is committed to helping countries around the world achieve sustainable development while preserving their natural resources and promoting clean air, clean water, and thriving ecosystems.

Dr. Paula J. Dobriansky is the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs. Her portfolio includes oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs.



The U.S. record of achievement in addressing environmental issues over the past 30 years is impressive. Today, we treasure the clear skylines of our great cities, the swim able waters of lakes and rivers, and our national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. The symbol of our nation, the bald eagle, can be seen again nesting within 35 kilometers of the nation's capital.

The modern environmental movement in the United States began with the launch of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Key pieces of U.S. environmental legislation followed, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, the Clean Air Act of 1970, the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and the Superfund Law of 1980, designed to clean up heavily polluted waste sites. Many of these laws and environmental initiatives were among the first of their kind in the world.

EARTH DAY – April 22

First observed April 22, 1970, with message "New Energy for a New Era" and attention to accelerating the transition to renewable energy worldwide. Earth Day 1990 was a global event with more than 200 million participating in 142 countries. Note: Earth Day activities are held by many groups on various dates, often on the weekends before and after Apr 22.

MEMORIAL DAY – May 30

PL 90-363 sets Memorial Day on last Monday in May. Also known as Decoration Day because of the tradition of decorating the graves of service men. An occasion for honoring those who have died in battle.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – June 5

Observed annually June 5, the anniversary of the opening of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972, which led to establishment of U.N. Environment Program based in Nairobi. The General Assembly has urged marking the day with activities reaffirming concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment

In sharing with other nations our experiences of the last 30 years, we have learned that clean air, clean water, and thriving ecosystems are fundamental and shared goals for all nations. We have also learned that environmental issues are not constrained by national borders and that the Earth is an interconnected system.

To address global environmental challenges, the United States is an active partner in more than 200 international environmental treaty negotiations, including agreements to

protect the ozone layer, preserve wetlands, safeguard endangered species, conserve natural resources, promote sustainable fisheries, and reduce hazardous chemicals.

The United States is also taking concrete actions to address some of the world's greatest development challenges, such as improving human health, conserving natural resources, increasing economic development, and alleviating poverty. During the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, the United States was at the forefront of international efforts to champion sustainable development.

The United States put forth nearly \$1 billion as part of our Water for the Poor initiative, with the aim of realizing the U.N. Millennium Declaration goal of halving the proportion of people who lack safe water by 2015. In the two and a half years since WSSD, this partnership has improved water and sanitation services for more than 8million people.

We also have partnered with governments and the private sector to form the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, devoting \$53 million dollars and leveraging tens of millions more. This initiative promotes economic development, poverty alleviation, and improved local governance through natural resource conservation and improved resource management, including control of illegal logging and wildlife poaching and trafficking.

The United States is committed to assisting other nations, particularly developing countries, meet the energy needs of their people, grow their economies, and address environmental concerns presented by air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. These multiple objectives can be achieved by developing clean, efficient, affordable energy technologies for the long term, while continuing to improve and deploy the current generation of lower-emission technologies. This year alone, the United States will spend more than \$3 billion to develop, deploy and commercialize cleaner and more efficient energy technologies, such as hydrogen, nuclear, clean coal, and renewable.

The United States is also leading international efforts to build a coordinated, sustained, and comprehensive Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). When deployed, GEOSS will help us improve environmental forecasts and provide early warnings of natural disasters. Because effective policies are based on sound science and accurate data, this global system of measurements will help the world community take appropriate actions to protect the environment while safeguarding people and fostering economic growth.

AIRC Holidays

May 29, 2006
July 4, 2006

Memorial Day
American Independence Day

The people of the United States take pride in protecting our environment, and we remain committed to this endeavor for the benefit of future generations. We are fully engaged in leading international efforts to meet the complex challenges of global environmental issues, and we reaffirm the critical role of all nations in this shared mission of protecting the health of our planet.

Source: Protecting the Environment: 30 Years of U.S. Progress, eJournal USA: Global Issues, June 2005 (Bureau of International Information Programs <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals>)

RESOURCES ON ENVIRONMENT

Books:

Environment and Society: Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues / Charles L. Harper. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004 (304.28 HAR)

Freeze, R. Allan. **The Environmental Pendulum: a Quest for the Truth about Toxic Chemicals, Human Health, and Environmental Protection** / R. Allan Freeze. Berkeley: University of California Press, c2000 (363.7384 FRE)

Gray, Rob. **Accounting for the Environment** / Rob Gray and Jan Bebbington ; editorial adviser, Martin Houldin. 2nd Ed. London; Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage Publications, 2001 (657 GRA)

Sussman, Glen. **American Politics and the Environment** / Glen Sussman, Byron W. Daynes, Jonathan P. West. New York, NY : Longman, c2002 (363.7056 SUS)

Articles

THE AGE OF CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTALISM: SURPRISE--BIG BUSINESS HAS LEARNED THAT IT'S PRETTY EASY BEING GREEN

By Mangu-Ward, Katherine. Reason, February 1, 2006 pp 34-41

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNOLOGY FOR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

By Alex London. Pollution Engineering, January 1, 2006 pp.14-16

BEYOND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE: ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN THE ELECTRONICS GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

By Holly A. Evans, Esq., and Pamela J. Gordon. CMC. Manufacturing Business Technology, January 1, 2006 pp.22 - 26

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS ... POLITICS;

By Eban Goodstein. World Watch, January 1, 2006 pp. 25 - 28

LINKING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMICS FOR ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

By Stephen Farber; Robert Costanza; Daniel L Childers; Jon Erickson; et al. Bioscience; February 2006 pp. 121-136

MAKING CLIMATE HOT COMMUNICATING THE URGENCY AND CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

By Susanne C. Moser and Lisa Dilling. Environment, December 2004 pp. 32 - 46

OLD WATER MADE NEW: INNOVATIVE PROJECT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMBINES WATER PURIFICATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL

By Sevenandt, Wendy. Pollution Engineering, January 1, 2006 pp.10 -12

SELF-ORGANIZATION AND THE EMERGENCE OF COMPLEXITY IN ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

By Simon A Levin. Bioscience. Washington: December 2005. pp.1075 - 1079

Websites

America's Clean Water Foundation

<http://www.acwf.org/>

Center for Clean Air Policy

<http://www.ccap.org/>

ConservAmerica

<http://www.conservamerica.org/>

Earth Day in Your Neighborhood

<http://www.allspecies.org/neigh/block.htm>

Earth Day Network

<http://www.earthday.net/>

Earth Day.gov

<http://www.earthday.gov/>

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

<http://www.pewclimate.org/>

U.S. Climate Change Science Program

<http://www.climatechange.gov/>

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental & Scientific Affairs

Global Climate Change

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/climate/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Clean Water Act

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/cwa.htm>

EPA's Global Warming Site

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html>

U.S. Global Change Research Program

<http://www.usgcrp.gov/>

White House

Council on Environmental Quality

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/>

NEW AT AIRC

Books

Bloom, Harold. **Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?** /

Harold Bloom. New York,

NY: Riverhead Books, 2004 (809 BLO)

Boczkowski, Pablo J. **Digitizing the News: Innovation in Online Newspapers** / Pablo J. Boczkowski.

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004 (070.4 BOC)

Bovee, Courtland L. **Excellence in Business**

Communication / Courtland L. Bovee, & John V. Thill. 6th

ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005

(658.45 BOV)

Cross, Robert L. **The Hidden Power of Social Networks: Understanding How Work Really Gets Done in Organizations** / Rob Cross & Andrew Parker. Boston,

MA: Harvard Business School Press, 2004. (658 CRO)

Democracy Online: The Prospects for Political

Renewal Through the Internet / edited by Peter M.

Shane. New York, NY: Routledge, 2004 (352.38 DEM)

Liu, Alan. **The Laws of Cool: Knowledge Work and the Culture of Information** / Alan Liu. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2004 (303.48 LIU)

Rayport, Jeffrey, F. **Best Face Forward: Why Companies Must Improve Their Service Interfaces With Customers** / Jeffrey F. Rayport and Bernard J.

Jaworski. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 2005 (658.812 RAY)

White, Richard Alan. **Breaking Silence: The Case That**

Changed the Face of Human Rights / Richard Alan

White. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004 (323.044WHI)

Wilson, Marie C. **Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World** / Marie C.

Wilson. New York, NY: Viking, 2004 (658.4092 WIL)

Articles

CAN DEMOCRACY STOP TERRORISM?

By F. Gregory Gause III. Foreign Affairs, September/October 2005, pp. 62-76.

CAN EXTREME POVERTY BE ELIMINATED?

By Jeffrey D. Sachs. Scientific American, September 2005, pp. 56-65

HARNESSING NANOTECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE GLOBAL EQUITY

By Peter A. Singer, et al. Issues in Science & Technology, Summer 2005, pp. 57-64.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

By Linda D. Koontz. United States General Accounting Office, May 11, 2005, 25 p.

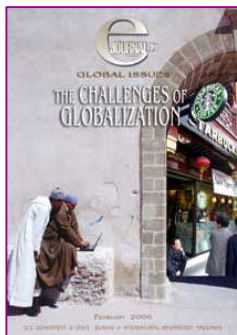
WORKING IN THE FUTURE

By John A. Challenger. Futurist, November/December 2005, pp. 47-50.

THE WORLD MOVES TOWARD FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

By Nikki Swartz. Information Management Journal, November/December 2004, pp. 20-23.

Electronic Journals

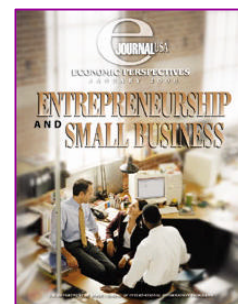


It is truly the innovation, resilience, and determination of small-business owners that centers them at the heart of the American economy. Small businesses broaden the base of participation in society, create jobs, decentralize economic power, and give people a stake in the future. This issue focuses on how successful small businesses are critical to maintaining a robust U.S. economy. (January 2006)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0106/ijee/ijee0106.htm>

This issue considers various aspects of globalization. The experts examine the topic from a variety of angles, yet offer no prescriptions, no definitive answers: Our goal is for our readers to come away with a better understanding of a deep-seated, complex phenomenon that affects us all. (February 2006)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0206/ijge/ijge0206.htm>



RECENT PROGRAMS



◀ AIRC Traveling Exhibition at St. Johns College, Tirunelveli, March 27-29, 2006

Members of IACC, Chennai ▶ discussing Corporate Governance, February 9, 2006



Vice Consul Christopher Wurst delivering the inaugural address during the seminar on Globalization, Labour and Family at M.S University, Tirunelveli, March 29, 2006

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